A Message From the Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Public Health

Dear Colleagues,

This week, there was a decrease in reported cases of COVID-19 to USC Upstate Health Services. Eleven (11) new cases were recorded during the seven-day reporting period. As in weeks past, many of the individuals who tested positive were not on campus during the infectious period, and can be traced to off-campus gatherings. All known cases were isolated, and contacts were quarantined. Our campus alert level remains at “new normal.” Again, you can view this data at www.uscupstate.edu/announcements/campus-benchmarks-and-operations.

Testing: Many thanks to those of you who participated in our “Know Your Status” testing initiative prior to Labor Day weekend. Our partners at Spartanburg Regional Hospital are providing ongoing testing without a clinician’s order, and we encourage you and your family to utilize this free community service at any time. The testing center is located at 1035 N. Church Street, and is open to the public from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. If you have symptoms that concern you, or you are notified that you are a close contact of an individual with COVID-19, please stay home, contact your supervisor, and report to Health Services by calling (864)503-5191 and selecting Option 1.

Additionally, next week we will launch “Testing Tuesdays,” a new campaign to further encourage students, faculty and staff to get tested for COVID-19. Our Department of Public Safety will provide a bus to the testing center for students without transportation. The bus will depart outside the Rampey Center at 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 2:00 pm every Tuesday, with appropriate precautions in place for bus riders.

Flu Clinic Postponed: Our flu vaccine manufacturer, Sanofi Pasteur, advised Health Services this week that there was a delay in shipment due to recent hurricanes and wildfires. They are unable to confirm a shipment date at this time. The Faculty and Staff Flu Clinic scheduled for next week has been cancelled, and we will advise you when the shipment has arrived and flu shots are available on campus. In the meantime, vaccines are readily available at major retail pharmacies in the surrounding community. We encourage you to get vaccinated this year, more than ever before.

Thank you again for your help in encouraging our students, and each other, to stay safe and healthy this fall.

Sincerely,

Mary D. Bucher, MS, APRN, FNP
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Up is where we live.